

COAST GUARD NORTHEAST

A PHOTOGRAPHIC VOYAGE THROUGH HISTORY



CREATED BY THE FIRST DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

DEDICATED TO THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD



Secure for sea, cast off all lines, and make preparations to get underway for your voyage through Coast Guard history in the Northeast, where it all began.

A Voyage Through History

The U.S. Coast Guard of today is always adapting, always performing, and always ready, making each and every day unique and unpredictable. And despite the demands of its diverse maritime missions, the Coast Guard remains among the world's most respected and effective maritime institutions.

With more than 200 years of missions ranging from treasury work to homeland security to war fighting, the Coast Guard's broad mission base is part of its identity. Established in 1790, the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the U.S. Lifesaving Service in 1915 to become the U.S. Coast Guard. In 2003, the Coast Guard was assumed by the Department of Homeland Security, affirming its place today as America's shoreline sentinel and maritime first responder.

Much of the Coast Guard's rich history took place along and within the waters of the 1st Coast Guard District based in Boston, Mass. The photographs in this book were collected by 1st Coast Guard District Public Affairs crews during a year-long effort covering eight states and more than 3,000 miles of travel. Photographers got underway, woke before dawn, waited in snowstorms, coordinated reunions, braved rising tides, and slept on islands to create a collection of images worth finding their own way into Coast Guard history.

So secure for sea, cast off all lines, and make preparations to get underway for your voyage through Coast Guard history in the Northeast, where it all began.



WEST QUODDY HEAD LIGHT

LUBEC, MAINE

Established in 1808, West Quoddy Head Light stands at the easternmost point of the contiguous United States. Although the station itself is now the property of Maine, the actual light is still maintained as an active aid to navigation by the Coast Guard. photo by PA3 Luke Clayton

44-48-55N 066-57-02W



BASS HARBOR LIGHT

MOUNT DESERT ISLAND, MAINE

In 1858, a 32-foot brick lighthouse was built on Mount Desert Island to mark the entrance to Bass Head Harbor and Blue Hill Harbor. While the light is within Acadia National Park, the Coast Guard now uses it as a residence and the light is an active aid to navigation. photo by PA3 Luke Clayton

44-13-19N 068-20-12W



PORTLAND HEAD LIGHT

CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE

Edward Rowe Snow, the popular historian and raconteur of the New England coast, wrote in his book *Famous New England Lighthouses*, “Portland Head and its light seem to symbolize the state of Maine—rocky coast, breaking waves, sparkling water and clear, pure salt air.” photo by PA2 Ayla Kelley

43-37-23N 070-12-29W



WINDMILL POINT LIGHT

ALBURGH, VT.

Constructed of blue limestone, Windmill Point Lighthouse on northern Lake Champlain was first lit in 1858. Its original lens was an 1858 sixth-order Fresnel lens. Today its optic is a Coast Guard-designed prototype with a visibility of nine miles. photo by PA3 Luke Clayton

44-58-54N, 073-20-28W



BURLINGTON BREAKWATER LIGHTS

BURLINGTON, VT.

Seen here is the north breakwater light on Lake Champlain. In May of 1938, Keeper Rolla W. Hill was escorted by 75 people in 12 boats back to shore on the last night of manually activating the lights. In 1941, the lights were converted to electric. Eventually, durable steel towers established an enduring presence. photo by PA3 Luke Clayton

44-28-50N 073-14-47W



FORT CONSTITUTION

NEW CASTLE, N.H.

Fort Constitution, located at the mouth of the Piscataqua River, is one of New Hampshire's most beloved military fortifications. Between missions and training, when Coast Guard crews of the adjacent Station Portsmouth Harbor need some time for morale, they play "fort-ball" on the large field inside to pass the time. photo by PA2 Ayla Kelley

43-04-17N 070-42-35W



PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LIGHT AT FORT CONSTITUTION

photo by PA2 Ayla Kelley

42-19-40N 070-23-54W



BIRTHPLACE OF THE COAST GUARD

NEWBURYPORT, MASS.

Before the Coast Guard was formally established in 1915, its crews and commands worked in the Revenue Cutter Service for 125 years. The very first ship in what Alexander Hamilton called a “system of cutters” was the Revenue Cutter Massachusetts, a 60-foot schooner captained by John Foster Williams. It was built and home-ported in Newburyport, Mass., which was deemed a Coast Guard city in 2012. photo by PA3 Amber Mitchell

42-48-46N 070-52-06W



HOSPITAL POINT

BEVERLY, MASS.

Hospital Point Front Range Light was initially lit in 1872 and was automated in 1947. Since that time, it has served as the residence of the 1st Coast Guard District commander. In this photo are Rear Admiral Dan Neptun and his wife, Wendy, who lived there from 2010 to 2012. During his command, Neptun took initiatives to promote awareness of the Coast Guard's heritage in the Northeast.
photo by PA3 Connie Terrell

42-32-47N 070-51-21W



SALEM AIR STATION

SALEM, MASS.

Located on Winter Island, Air Station Salem was established in 1935 to replace the air station located in Gloucester. Seen here are 15 crew members who gathered in 2012 to visit the site. Originally complemented with 35 personnel and two aircrafts, the facility closed in 1970. Both Salem and Quonset Point, R.I., were merged to form the current Air Station Cape Cod. photo by PA3 Connie Terrell

42-31-36N 070-52-09W



BOSTON LIGHT

BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS, MASS.

Boston Light station was established in 1716, making it the oldest in the United States. Fired upon during the Revolutionary War and witness to War of 1812 battles at sea, Boston Light is home to the Coast Guard's oldest artifact (a 300-year old fog signal cannon) and stands its watch under the care of Keeper Sally Snowman, the last light keeper employed by the U.S. Coast Guard.

photo by PA2 Rob Simpson

42-19-40N 070-23-54W



BOSTON LIGHT KEEPER'S HOUSE

photo by PA2 Rob Simpson

42-19-40N 070-23-54W



SCITUATE LIGHT

SCITUATE, MASS.

Sally Snowman, the keeper of nearby Boston Light, holds the fife used by Rebecca Bates, daughter of the first keeper of Scituate Light, to stave off a British warship during the War of 1812. Upon sighting the ship, Rebecca and her sister played “Yankee Doodle” loud enough for the British to flee in fear that American troops were gathering shoreside. The story was recorded by a local paper after interviewing the sisters themselves. photo by PA3 Connie Terrell

42-12-17N 070-42-56W



RACE POINT LIGHT

PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

An old shipwreck rests silent beneath the sand at Race Point Light, established in 1816 and the principle marker for mariners departing Boston on an easterly heading. It warned mariners of the dangerous shoals that lie off the Cape. The light was automated in 1972 and is now powered by a solar array. photo by PAC Jeff Hall

42-03-57N 070-14-37W



OLD HARBOR LIFE SAVING STATION

PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

Established in 1897, the Old Harbor U.S. Life Saving Station was originally situated on Nauset Beach at the Chatham Harbor entrance. One side of the building historically functioned as living space, containing a keeper's room, office, kitchen and mess room with sleeping quarters above. Threatened by beach erosion, the station was moved to Provincetown in 1977. The historic building now serves as an interpretive center for the Cape Cod National Seashore. photo by PAC Jeff Hall

42-04-48N 070-12-59W



NAUSET COAST GUARD STATION STATION

NAUSET, MASS.

Built in 1937, the Nauset Coast Guard Station was in service until 1958 and later served as the first headquarters of the Cape Cod National Seashore. Currently, the building houses the Cape Cod National Seashore overnight NEED (National Environmental Educational Development) program for school groups. photo by PAC Jeff Hall

41-50-35N 069-56-52W



COAST GUARD HERITAGE MUSEUM

BARNSTABLE, MASS.

Frank Larder, Jack McGrath and Bill Collette (left to right) represent the leadership and volunteerism that keeps the Coast Guard Heritage Museum going. In addition to the museum building, which is a former U.S. Custom House and Post Office, the property includes the Village Smithy, a working blacksmith shop with daily demonstrations, and “The Oldest Wooden Jail in America.”

photo by PA3 Connie Terrell

41-42-01N 070-17-56W



COAST GUARD STATION CHATHAM

photo by PAC Jeff Hall

41-40-17 N 069-56-59 W



CG 36500

CHATHAM, MASS.

Actually housed and maintained by the Orleans Historical Society in Orleans, Mass., (but seen here moored in Chatham) the CG 36500 made its mark on Coast Guard history while coxswained by BM1 Bernie Webber in the 1952 rescues of the crew of the M/V Pendleton. The Station Chatham boat crew rescued 32 men from the frigid sea that day, resulting in what some call the greatest rescue in Coast Guard history. photo by LT Joe Klinker

41-41-09N 069-57-03W



NOBSKA POINT LIGHT

WOODS HOLE, MASS.

The first lighthouse at Nobska Point, built in 1828 for \$2,249, was a typical Cape Cod style structure with an octagonal lantern on top of the keeper's house. There were three rooms on the first floor of the dwelling, and two small rooms upstairs. The lighthouse now serves as the home for the commanding officer of Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England.

photo by PA2 Rob Simpson

41-30-57N 070-39-18W



GAY HEAD LIGHT

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, MASS.

In 1858, a 32-foot brick lighthouse was built on Mount Desert Island to mark the entrance to Bass Head Harbor and Blue Hill Harbor. While the light is within Acadia National Park, the Coast Guard now uses it as a residence and the light is an active aid to navigation. photo by PA2 Rob Simpson

44-13-19N 068-20-12W



HEADSTONE OF IDA LEWIS

NEWPORT, R.I.

Ida Lewis gained national notoriety during a time when most women in the United States were neither in the professional workforce nor on the national stage. She overcame the biases of the time, through skill and professional ability, to become the official keeper of the Lime Rock Light Station, a position she held until her death in 1911. Not far from her gravesite is the light house that now bears her name: Ida Lewis Light. photo by PAC Jeff Hall

41-29-40N 071-18-57W



BRANFORD HOUSE

GROTON, CONN.

Once the home of a wealthy New England family, the Branford House eventually became the property of the United States Coast Guard, being used as offices and quarters for the families of commanding and executive officers. The adjacent Avery Point Lighthouse was built in 1942. In the 1960s, the Coast Guard station moved and the land reverted to the State. photo by PA2 Jetta Disco

41-18-57N 72-03-51W



FORT TRUMBULL

NEW LONDON, CONN.

Fort Trumbull was completed in 1777 near the entrance to the Thames River in New London, Conn. The fort was one of 30 forts built along the coastline of the U.S. in efforts to improve the country's weak coastal defenses following the War of 1812. In 1910 the fort was turned over to the Coast Guard by the War Department. photo by PA2 Jetta Disco

41-30-27N 072-05-36W



COAST GUARD ACADEMY

NEW LONDON, CONN.

Founded in 1876, the United States Coast Guard Academy is the smallest of the five federal service academies. The modern Academy was born in 1915 with the merger of the Life Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service. In 1932, the citizens of New London donated the present site. About 200 officers are commissioned by the academy each year. photo by PA2 Jetta Disco

41-22-20N 076-06-06W



COAST GUARD ACADEMY

photo by PAC Jeff Hall

41-22-20N 076-06-06W



COAST GUARD CUTTER EAGLE

NEW LONDON, CONN.

Taken as a war prize from Germany following World War II, Coast Guard Cutter Eagle bears the name of a long and honored tradition of ships going all the way back to 1790. The 295-foot barque serves as a training platform for future Coast Guard officers and represents the United States worldwide as “America’s Tall Ship.” photo by PA2 Jetta Disco

41-21-20N 072-5-59W



WAR OF 1812

LONG ISLAND, N.Y.

Michael Johnson, LCDR Juan Torres, Capt. Steven Pope, MCPO Jeffrey Ryan, and CWO Allen Mordica (retired) were re-enactors in New York during the War of 1812 Bicentennial. Not far away is Long Island where cutter Eagle crews fought gallantly in 1812, even when forced aground, firing back the British's own cannon balls. photo by PA1 Tom McKenzie

40-47-2N 073-04-28W



GRAVE OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON

NEW YORK, N.Y.

Known as the father of the Coast Guard, Alexander Hamilton's lays at rest in the graveyard of the Trinity Church in Lower Manhattan, in New York City. As the first Secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton commissioned 10 cutters to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. The new fleet of ships was known as the Revenue Cutter Service, and in 1915 the RCS was merged with the Lifesaving Service to create the U.S. Coast Guard. photo by PA2 Rob Simpson

40-41-31N 074-01-01W



GOVERNORS ISLAND

NEW YORK, N.Y.

When the Army left Governors Island in 1966, the installation became a United States Coast Guard base. The Coast Guard used the opportunity to consolidate, improve schools, and house a base for its regional and Atlantic operations. The departure of the Coast Guard in 1996 ended two centuries of military presence on the island. photo by PA1 Tom McKenzie

40-41-31N 074-01-01W



ROBBINS REEF LIGHT

BAYONNE, N.J.

Katherine Walker tended Robbins Reef Lighthouse from 1886 to 1919, until the age of 73. The task was not an easy one, as she climbed to the top of the light several times each night to tend the kerosene lamp. During periods of fog or heavy snow she would ring the fog signal by hand for hours on end when the mechanical system failed. She is credited with saving at least 50 sailors from shipwrecks, using only a small dingy to perform the rescues. The Coast Guard Cutter Katherine Walker, a 175-foot Keeper Class buoy tender, homeported in Bayonne, N.J., continues her legacy. photo by PA2 Rob Swanson

40-39-26N 074-03-55W

Semper Paratus, for more than two centuries...

